

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-3, 5, and 9, by way of replacement, and add new claims 11-13, as follows. A marked-up version of the amended claims is enclosed in the APPENDIX, submitted herewith. For convenience of reference, all pending claims are set forth below.

- 34 Sub C17
1. (Once Amended) A method of propagating changes to a table, comprising the steps of:
maintaining a first copy of the table at a first site;
maintaining a second copy of the table at a second site; and
transmitting changes to the first copy of the table from the first site to the second site;
updating the second copy of the table at the second site based on the transmitted changes;
wherein the first copy of the table and the second copy of the table have at least one non-overlapping relational database column.
 2. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-overlapping relational database column is present in the first copy and missing in the second copy.
 3. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-overlapping relational database column is missing in the first copy and present in the second copy.
 4. (Not Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of reconciling differences in the column shape of the first copy and the column shape of the second copy for the transmitted changes.
 5. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining a top flavor describing overlapping relational database columns and non-overlapping relational database columns of the table.

6. (Not Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

defining a first flavor describing the columns of the first copy; and

transmitting an indicator of the first flavor from the first site to the second site.

7. (Not Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

defining a second flavor describing the columns of the second copy; and

wherein the step of updating the second copy of the table at the second site based on the

transmitted changes includes the step of updating overlapping columns between the first

flavor and the second flavor in the second copy of the table.

34 8. (Not Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the step of maintaining a first copy of the table at a first site includes the step of maintaining

an updatable snapshot at a laptop computer site; and

the step of maintaining a second copy of the table at a second site includes the step of

maintaining a master table at a master site.

9. (Once Amended) A method of modifying a table to drop a first column and add a second column, said table being replicated at a plurality of sites, comprising the steps of:

(a) defining a first flavor for a first site, said first flavor describing the table as having both the first column and the second column;

(b) adding the second column to the table at the first site, so that the table contains both the first column and the second column;

(c) defining a second flavor for a second site, said second flavor describing the table as having the second column but not the first column;

(d) dropping the first column and adding the second column to the table at the second site;

- (e) defining the second flavor for the first site and dropping the first column from the table at the first site; and
- (f) maintaining replication activities while performing steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e).

B4 10. (Not Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of maintaining replication activities includes the steps of:

- transmitting changes to the table from the first site to the second site; and
- updating the second copy of the table at the second site based on overlapping columns between the first flavor and the second flavor.

11. (New) A method of propagating changes to a data container, comprising the steps of:

- B5 maintaining a first copy of the data container at a first site;
- maintaining a second copy of the data container at a second site; and
- transmitting changes to the first copy of the data container from the first site to the second site;
- updating the second copy of the data container at the second site based on the transmitted changes;
- wherein the first copy of the data container and the second copy of the data container have at least one non-overlapping data field.

12. (New) A method of propagating changes to database objects, comprising the steps of:

- defining a top flavor maintained at a master site and that describes a superset of the database objects;
- defining at least one other flavor maintained at respective client sites and that describes a subset of the database objects defined by the top flavor; and